

A rare *Tipula* rediscovered

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Abstract

Tipula spatha Doane, previously known from only two males, is recorded from Arizona and New Mexico, with first habitat data and a brief description of the female.

Key words: *Tipula spatha*, range, habitat

In 1912, R. W. Doane named and described *Tipula spatha*, based on a single male with no collection data other than “Arizona.” Thirty-four years later, a second male was recorded (Alexander 1946) from near Tucson, Arizona, elevation 2,400 feet, collected on 9 June 1942 by Mabel Alexander. I have found no further mention of the species during the ensuing 63 years, other than its inclusion in a paper on the types of Doane’s species of Tipulidae in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences (Byers 1976).

Doane did not mention how he chose the name for this species. Latin *spatha*, from Greek *spathe*, means a spoon, or and broad blade, etc., and in this case surely refers to the conspicuous median element of the gonapophyses (Alexander 1946), or phallosome (Alexander 1948). This darkly colored structure (Figs. 1–2, 4), narrow at its base, is abruptly flattened and widened, its rounded posterior edge curved downward, producing the spoon-like shape. Various forms of this median process of the gonapophyses occur in a few other species of subgenus *Lunatipula* and can be diagnostic for the species (Alexander 1948: 27, fig. 7, referring to *Tipula bisetosa* Doane).

Having collected several specimens of this apparently uncommon species while on a trip to the southwestern United State, I offer here some information about its habitat, its seasonal occurrence, and a brief description of the previously unknown female.

On 30 May 1991, one male and one female were found in the Mimbres Mountains, elev. 2365 m, below Emory Pass, Grant Co., New Mexico. Three days later, 2 June, five males and three females were collected in the Chiricahua Mountains, along East Turkey Creek, 1950 m, Cochise Co., in southeastern Arizona. At both of these localities, the general habitat was rather dry hillside forest of pine, Douglas fir, oaks (*Quercus gambeli*) and some spruce, and at both the vegetation along the small stream was willow and box elder shrubs, grasses and sedges. *Tipula spatha* was found in well shaded niches near large rocks and fallen branches, etc., near the streams. These ten specimens, mounted and labeled many years ago, I have identified only recently.

Doane’s description of the colors of thorax and wings of males of *T. spatha* applies to females as well. In the female, antennal scape and pedicel are yellow, as in the male, but the flagellar segments are not uniformly brown but bicolored, mostly dark grayish brown, the apical portion of each pale